

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated June 27, 2005. Claims 1, 4-12, 16, 20-22, 24-27 remain pending. Claims 2, 3, 13-15, 17-19, 23, and 28-61 have been canceled in this application, without prejudice and without disclaimer of subject matter. Claims 10 and 11 have been amended merely to make grammatical corrections. Claim 24 has been amended to depend from Claim 16. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of Claim 3/2, and Claim 16 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of Claim 28/23. Claims 1 and 16 are in independent form.

Initially, Claims 3 and 28 have been objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Examiner is thanked for this indication.

Claims 16, 20, 21, 29, 34, 35, and 43 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Japanese Patent document JP 11-118462 (*Takigawa et al.*), and Claims 1, 2, 4-15, 21-27, 36, 37, and 41 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Takigawa et al.* in view of Japanese Patent document JP 11-194134 (*Den et al.*).

The cancellation of Claims 2, 13-15, 23, 29, 34-37, 41, and 43 renders their rejection moot.

In keeping with the Office Action's indication of allowable subject matter, Applicants have now incorporated the patentable subject matter from Claim 3/2 into amended independent Claim 1, and incorporated the patentable subject matter from Claim 28/23 into

independent Claim 16. Consequently, Claims 1 and 16 are seen to be in condition for allowance.

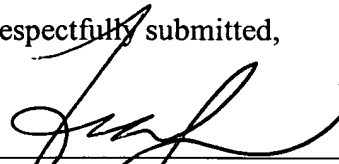
The foregoing actions have been taken without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, and without conceding correctness of the rejections, but rather strictly to obtain an earlier allowance and to expedite issuance. In particular, it is Applicants' current intention to file a divisional application, to pursue the subject matter of the rejected claims.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the remaining independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable, at least for the reason that each depends from a patentable base claim.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



Frank A. DeLucia
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 42,476

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

NY_MAIN 522654v1